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CAMPING OUT IN OUR COUNTY

A radio talk by Jack Thurmond, Kentucky 4-H club boy, delivered in the National 4-H club radio program, Saturday, July 1, 1933, broadcast by a network of 58 associate NBC radio stations.

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Every boy likes to go camping when summer comes and 4-H club members are no exception to this rule.

I have been a 4-H club member for five years and have attended our District 4-H Club Camp each year since I joined the club. I go back to camp every year because I have formed many friendships with club members from other counties which I enjoy renewing, because it is a vacation to me, because the program inspires me with the beauty and worth of everyday duties and finally because I have found that the training which I receive at camp has been of great benefit to me already and I feel that it will continue to benefit me through life.

The program of the camp is planned to inspire boys and girls with the opportunities of country life and to teach them to use the material and enjoy the things which they find about them. These programs consist of practical instruction in agriculture, home economics, 4-H development and music appreciation in the morning, play and recreational activities in the afternoon, vesper services at sunset and tribe entertainments in the evening. Our camp is held the last week in July each year. On the first day in camp we are organized into six groups with about sixty club members in each group. We stay in our respective groups during the remainder of the week, learning to work together and to play together and in that way gaining the ability to act in harmony with other individuals. We learn to win without boasting and to lose without crying. The entire camp is designed to develop better rural citizenship through the building of character and the living of more perfect lives.

Each morning we have class work under competent instructors, usually county and home agents from the district. We are taught many interesting and useful things through demonstrations. The most helpful one last year was a meat cutting demonstration, in which we were shown how to cut up a hog carcass to make the best use of every part of it, to skin hams and shoulders and to cure meat for the best possible flavor.

We learn to distinguish harmful from beneficial insects and how to control them. We are taught how to make soil tests for limestone and phosphorous, so that we may know how to select legumes to be grown on our home farms. We are taught how to use these legumes in building up soils, together with such soil amendments as limestone and phosphorous.

In handicraft work, we are trained to use our hands in making things which are useful at home. This work last year included the building of storage bins and cellars for fruits and vegetables, which met one of the many needs presented by the Live-at-home program sponsored by the Extension Division of the University of Kentucky. We were also trained in the mixing and use of concrete and in the making of colored whitewashes so that we might preserve our home buildings and keep them attractive at a very low cost.

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One period each day is given over to the development of high ideals and training for the development of character. This period is always conducted by one who has had wide experience in doing this sort of work. We are taught to play games not only for recreation but to build health and to develop sportsmanship and cooperation. We are drilled in song-leading and public speaking so that we may be able to take part in all community activities. We learn to work with others for the good of all.

Our club camps are composed of the brightest, most industrious and most ambitious boys and girls in the rural districts. They are conducted by the 4-H Club Department of the Extension Division of the University of Kentucky, assisted by the county and home agents of the districts. The instructors are experts and they make the camps profitable and entertaining for the club members and leaders.

In a 4-H Club Camp, we learn to see our best efforts excelled and to congratulate the winners. We try to make the best better. We believe in our country and our State and at camp we learn more about our responsibility for their development and to this responsibility we dedicate our service.